AZAMARU

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Volume 03 Chapter 2

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CHAPTER 24: THESE SOULLESS BEINGS

WHAT'S THIS?
ONE OF MY INVENTIONS SOME SORT OF BOW!
HERE!
WOULD YOU MIND GIVING THIS TO AKUBE?
SM..SK
SONIA!
GNNN
AH, REALLY?
A BOW?
WHAT ABOUT THE ARROWS?
A STONE, A BRANCH, ANYTHING WILL DO!
WHY DON'T YOU DO IT YOURSELF!?
HEY, I'M NOT HIS WIFE!
YOU ARE MARRIED TO HIM, RIGHT?
YOU WON'T FORGET GIVING IT TO HIM, WILL YOU?!

!?
DRAWING OUT
AKUBE
TCHIF
TCHIF
BAM
OUCH OUCH OUCH !!
OUT
MY BOTTOM
RUSTLE
WHAAA
HEIN ?

DON'T COME NEAR MY VILLAGE!
YOU MASKED MAN!
HEY!
WHAM
MASKED MAN?
VIL-LAGE?
COLLAPSE
OCHIUDO VILLAGE?
FROM THE HEIJI CLAN?
HEY, LITTLE GUY...
ARE YOU FROM OCHIUDO VILLAGE?

GREAT!
WITH A LARGE ARMY?
THERE IS REALLY A VILLAGE
BUT THERE ARE NO ADULTS ANYMORE
.....
LITTLE GUY, DON'T WORRY! WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE!
WE DON'T BELONG TO THE MASK CLAN!
YOU MEAN THAT ONE OF THE VILLAGES WHICH GATHERS THE SURVIVORS FROM THE HEIJI CLAN IS IN THE VINCINITY?
THE MASK CLAN CONQUERED OUR VILLAGE SOME WEEKS AGO. YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO FIND THE CHILDREN SAVED BY ZANMU THERE...
WHAT?
ON GUARD
ZANMU?

THERE IS A MASKED MAN NEARBY...
IT'S NOT FOR THE KID!
NO!
AKUBE!
TREMBLE
FOOTSTEPS
IS IT YOU, KAGE-MIYO?

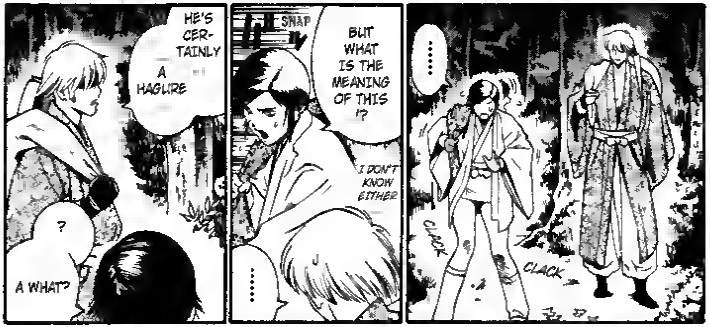
ZANNU!
A MEMBER FROM THE MASK CLAN!
DASH
DASH
WHAT?
AKUBE!
NO!
WAIT!

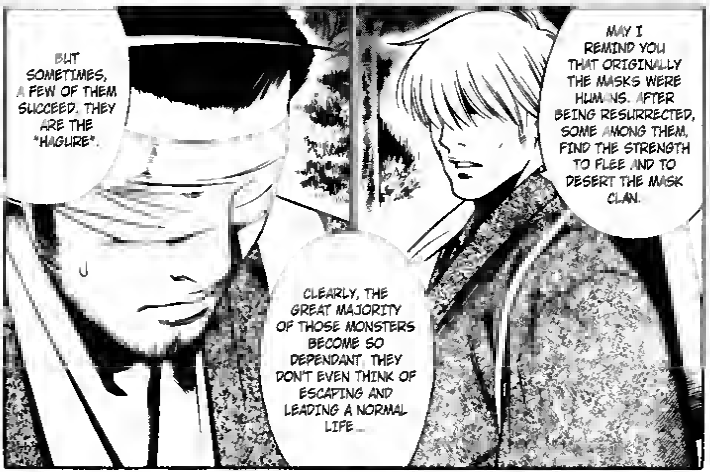
RHAAA!
SLASH

KNOCK
WHAT?!
KAGERIYO!
NOBODY IS ALLOWED TO CALL ME ....
... BY THAT NAME!
UWAH

ROAR
AAAAH!
.....
.....!!

RATTLE
RATTLE


HE'S CERTAINLY A HAGURE
A WHAT?
?
SNAP
BUT WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER
.....
CLACK
CLACK


BUT SOMETIMES, A FEW OF THEM SUCCEED. THEY ARE THE "HAGURE".
CLEARLY, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE MONSTERS BECOME SO DEPENDANT. THEY DON'T EVEN THINK OF ESCAPING AND LEADING A NORMAL LIFE...
MAY I REMIND YOU THAT ORIGINALLY THE MASKS WERE HUMANS. AFTER BEING RESURRECTED, SOME AMONG THEM, FIND THE STRENGTH TO FLEE AND TO DESERT THE MASK CLAN.

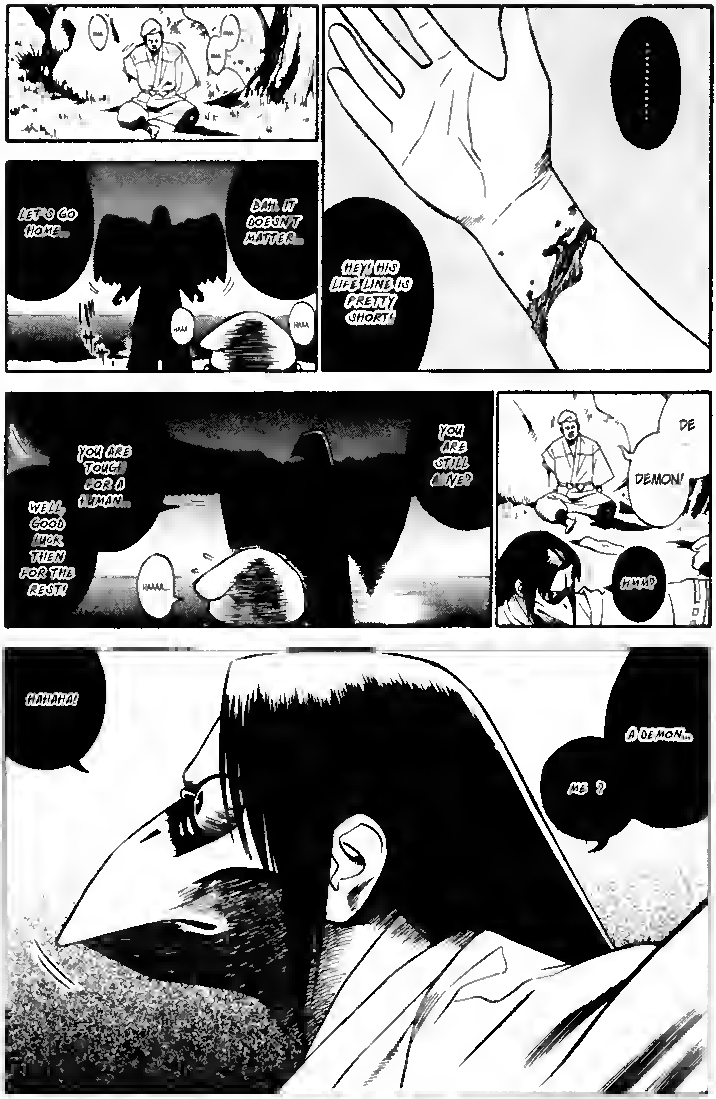
WHAT ABOUT IT? IT DOESN'T CHANGE A THING?!?
MONSTERS LIKE HIM KILLED MY FRIENDS, MY BROTHERS, THE WOMAN I LOVED
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE CAN'T LET SUCH A MONSTER LIVE!

WHO DESERVE NOTHING LESS THAN TO DIE A SECOND TIME
FOR ME, THESE THINGS ARE JUST DEMONS
AND THE FAMILY I HAD STARTED
AKUBE HAD A..
AKUBE!
!!
CLEAR OFF! OR I'LL CUT YOU UP ALONGSIDE HIM!
KIDDO!
GNNP!

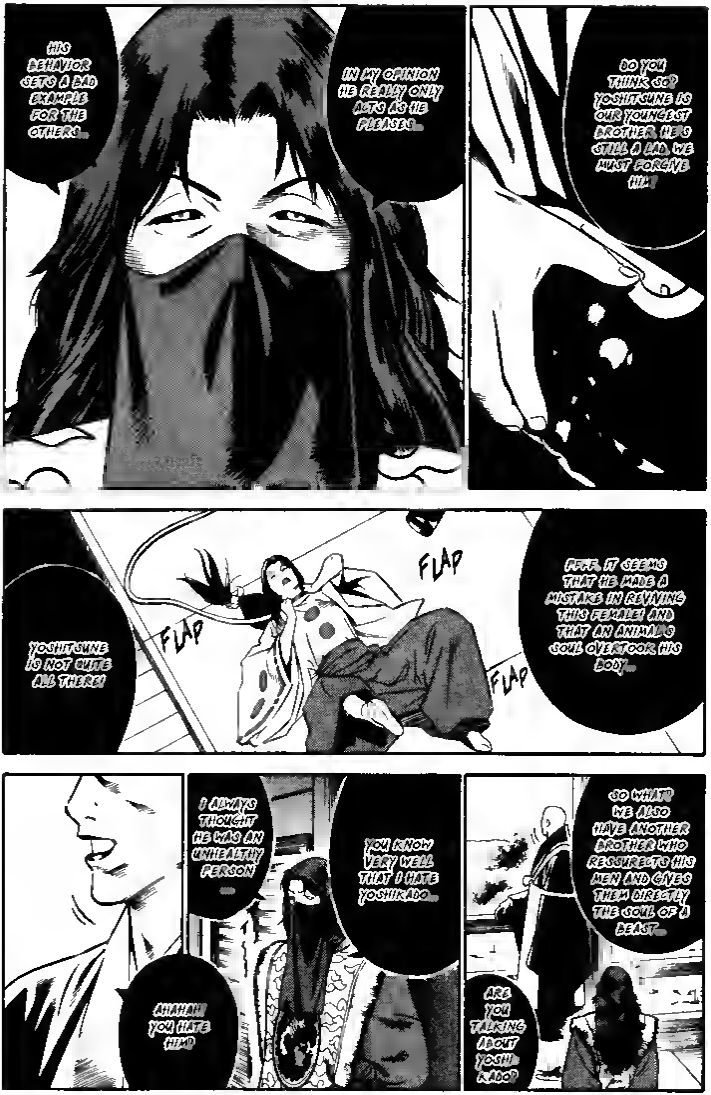
I KNOW WHAT YOU FEEL...
ZANMA!!
I'M VERY WELL AWARE THAT [illegible] UNLESS THEY SHOULD EXTERMINATE US ALL, YOU ARE RIGHT...
OH REALLY? IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN DIE IN PEACE
THEY NEED SOMEBODY TO PROTECT THEM
BUT I ASK OF YOU TO WAIT
THOSE KIDS NEED ME

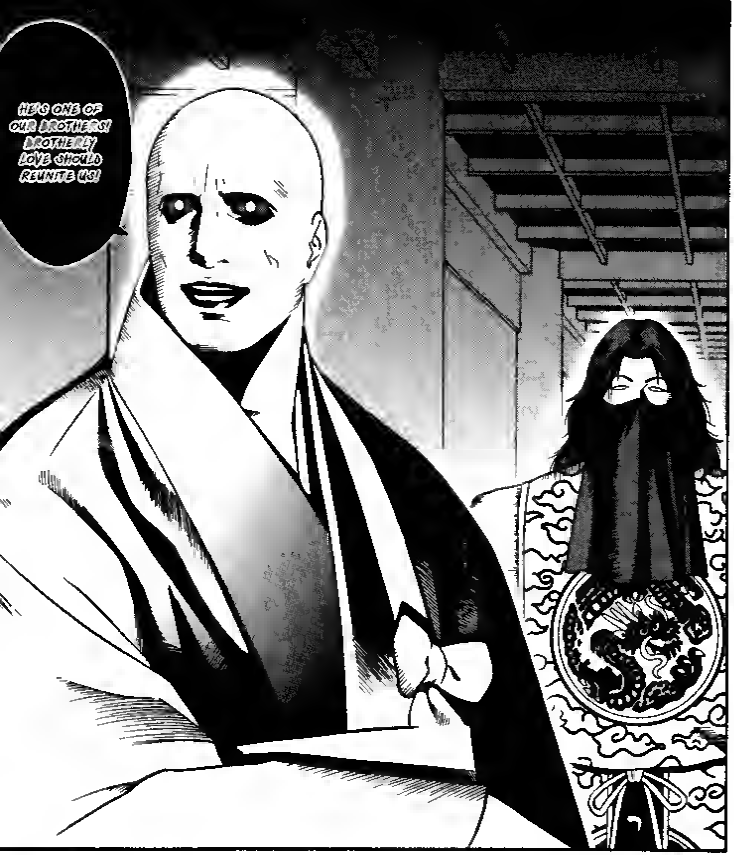
AKIBE!
WHERE IS THIS VILLAGE? I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE CARE OF IT
ESPECIALLY IF THOSE KID DOES HAD HEIJI PARENTS!
SNAP

NEVER AGAIN ARE YOU GOING TO THREATEN A CHILD!
DO YOU HEAR ME? NEVER AGAIN!
HMMM
YES...
UNDER-STOOD ...
MEAN WHILE IN KAMA-KURA
CLENCH
GRIP


...
...
...
...
LET'S GO HOME...
BAH! IT DOESN'T MATTER...
HEY! HIS LIFELINE IS PRETTY SHORT!
YOU ARE TOUGH FOR A HUMAN...
WELL, GOOD LUCK THEN FOR THE REST!
HAAA...
YOU ARE STILL ALIVE?
DE
DEMON!
HMM?
HAHAHA!
A DEMON...
ME ?

YOSHIHIRA, MY BROTHER... YOU ARE TOO TOLERANT TOWARD YOSHITSUNE...
TOMONAGA...
...IT'S BECAUSE EVEN HELL DIDN'T WANT ME!
NO, I'M WORSE! IF I'M STILL HERE...
HELL
APART


HIS BEHAVIOR SETS A BAD EXAMPLE FOR THE OTHERS...
IN MY OPINION HE REALLY ONLY ACTS AS HE PLEASES...
DO YOU THINK, SIR? YOSHITSUNE IS OUR YOUNGEST BROTHER. HE'S STILL A KID. WE MUST FORGIVE HIM!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
PFFF. IT SEEMS THAT HE MADE A MISTAKE IN REVIVING THIS FEMALE! AND THAT AN ANIMAL'S SOUL OVERTOOK HIS BODY...
YOSHITSUNE IS NOT QUITE ALL THERE!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS AN UNHEALTHY PERSON
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT I HATE YOSHIKABO...
AHAHAH! YOU HATE HIM?
SO WHAT? WE ALSO HAVE ANOTHER BROTHER WHO RESSURECTS HIS MEN AND GIVES THEM DIRECTLY THE SOUL OF A BEAST...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YOSHIKABO?


HE'S ONE OF OUR BROTHERS! BROTHERLY LOVE SHOULD REUNITE US!

YOSHITSUNE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SELF-CENTERED, SINCE HE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE ALONE. HE PERSISTS IN REVIVING HIS SOLDIERS BY GIVING THEM A HUMAN SOUL... THAT'S HIS PROBLEM.
IN MY OPINION, HE'D BETTER FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE! THE IDEAL THING IS TO REVIVE A DEAD PERSON BY GIVING HIM THE SOUL OF AN ANIMAL!

OH! I'M TOLD AT THE MOMENT THAT THE CROWS JUST FOUND A VILLAGE BY CHILDREN?
IT LOOKS LIKE A NICE PLACE!HOW ABOUT SPENDING A PENNY PLAYING WITH KAGEKIYO?
HAAA
HAAA

I'M HUNGRY, TOO!
I'M HUNGRY!

YES! WHEN ARE WE EATING?
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO EAT?
WE HAVE ALMOST COVERED HALF OF THE WAY
WE HAVE BEEN WALKING FOR A LONG WHILE! IS YOUR VILLAGE STILL FAR AWAY?

ARE YOU GOING TO SHUT UP ?!?

I'M TIRED!
HALF OF THE WAY? IS IT STILL THAT FAR?
MY FEET ARE ACHING!

GRRRR
MORON!
MO-
RON!
RETARD
!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
CLING!
CLING!
CLING!
TAP
TAP